(c) the action proposed to be taken to remedy the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHINTA MOHAN): (a) to (c) In the inflationary situation where costs of inputs are increasing, the prices of medicines are bound to increase. The recent foreign exchange rate adjustment has also contributed towards increase in prices. It has been the effort of the Government to moderate the prices of imported medicines which are covered under DPCO, 1987, to the extent feasible. In case of non-scheduled formulations, if price increase of MAPE charged appears to be unreasonable, companies are asked to justify the increase in the prices. In case adequate justification does not exist, companies are prevailed upon to reduce the price in the overall interest of the consumer.

Aromatic complex in Assam

@1937. SHRI BHADRESWAR GOHAIN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal under Government consideration for setting up of an Aromatic complex from the surplus Naphta in Assam;

(b) if so, what is the present position of the said proposal and whether the Government has given its clearance to the project; and

(c) if not the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHINTA MOHAN (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

@Previously Unstarred Question 1010, transferred from the 6th May 1992.

Move to sell holding of Union Carbide Corporation

@@1938. SHRI DHULESHWAR MEENA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Bhopal Gas Peedit Sahyog Sangathan, an organisation working among the gas victims, has strongly opposed the move by the Union Carbide Corporation to sell its holdings in India to raise $ 17 million for starting a hospital to treat the Bhopal gas, victims;

(b) if so, its legal implications particularly the suspected circumvention of the C.B.I.'s move to get the Union Carbide Corporation assets in India attached following the non-appearance in court of the company's former Chairman and other in connection with the criminal case against it; and

(c) what is the Union Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHINTA MOHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) As per the information furnished by a firm of Solicitors, the Union Carbide Corporation (UCC) who is holding 50.9% shares in Union Carbide India Limited (UCIL), have pledged 16,585,000 shares to the Bhopal Hospital Trust to facilitate the construction and operation of a hospital for gas victims in Bhopal, which, under the directions of the Supreme Court in its Order dated 3.10.1991 has to be financed by Union Carbide Corporation/Union Carbide India Limited. The Court of the Chief Judicial Magistrate, Bhopal has, *inter-alia*, ordered attachment of all movable and immovable properties of Union Carbide Corporation in India and attachment of Union Carbide Corporation property worth 50.9% in Union Carbide India Limited for having failed to appear in the Court of the criminal

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@@Previously Unstarred Question 1658 transferred from the 11th May, 1992.